

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE HOPE
44th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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44th DISTRICT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE HOPE



Dear friends and neighbors,

The Legislature adjourned April 26 and it's good to be home. I'm now back to my jobs as a Seattle police officer and training young athletes for college. I'm still busy working for you, meeting with local officials and community organizations to talk about what happened during the session and also to get feedback on what needs to be changed when I go back to Olympia next year. Please call my office if you would like me to come speak to your group or organization. I would love to meet with you.

It was a challenging year in Olympia. The 105-day session was dominated by discussions about the \$9 billion budget deficit and what that means for our schools, jails, hospitals and citizens. While I'm pleased the Legislature passed a budget without raising taxes, the majority party did so by using \$5 billion in one-time money, which puts us in a bad position for the next budget cycle. They also passed almost \$436 million in increased and new fees, which will burden taxpayers. We had some successes and great failures this year, which I will discuss in more depth in this newsletter.

I look forward to meeting with you in person or just saying "hi" in the grocery store. It's an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Hope".

Mike Hope
44th District Representative



Committees:

Education
(Assistant Ranking)
Education Appropriations
(Assistant Ranking)
Capital Budget

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*Read my press releases, biography
and sign up for my electronic
newsletter!*

TOLL-FREE**LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE:**

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(800) 635-9993 (TDD)

**EDUCATION****FIGHTING TO KEEP CLASSROOM DOLLARS**

Levy equalization dollars from the state allow property-poor school districts to have the same access to education funding as property-rich districts. On the last day of session, the majority party tried to pass House Bill 1776, which would have cut levy equalization dollars from districts across the state. I spoke strongly against the bill on the House floor and successfully fought to stop the following cuts in our schools:

- \$782,000 from the Marysville School District
- \$494,000 from the Lake Stevens School District
- \$102,000 from the Snohomish School District

I'm pleased that the bill debate ended without a vote and that the governor did not call a special session to pass it.

EDUCATION REFORM

A two-year task force worked hard to re-define basic education and how it is funded. I supported the original legislation that created revenue streams without raising taxes as well as expanded basic education definitions to include early learning and highly capable programs. Unfortunately, the Senate removed the revenue sources and the governor vetoed the early learning components. We have much work to do, but I look forward to working on this with members of the community and Education Committee members to include revenue sources and the vetoed components.

**FINANCIAL LITERACY**

With the current economic situation, it's become clear how critical financial education is to our students. I sponsored a bill to require schools to teach financial literacy as a part of their curriculum. A similar bill passed the

Legislature to review and endorse financial education curriculum. I supported this measure and an amendment to provide more flexibility to our school districts in implementing new standards.

Our children need to be better prepared for budgeting and credit management to understand the financial world around them.

PUBLIC SAFETY**ERYK'S LAW – TOUGH SENTENCING ON CHILD ABUSE**

Many of you may have heard the story of Eryk Woodruff, a toddler from Lake Stevens who was nearly beaten to death by a family friend who was babysitting him. His parents came to me at the beginning of the session and asked me to do something to strengthen the penalties for this kind of child abuse. I introduced Eryk's Law, which was signed by the governor April 25. Eryk, his parents and his older sister traveled to Olympia to meet the governor and be there when she signed the bill into law. I want to thank all of you who helped support this great piece of legislation; I could not have done it without you.

PHOTO VERIFICATION FOR POLICE OFFICERS

Since I've returned to my work with the Seattle Police Department, my fellow officers have commented often about a bill that they say will make a huge difference to them and their work on the streets.

Senate Bill 5262 will give law enforcement access to driver's license photos so they can confirm a person's identity. This is especially helpful for people we pull over who do not have their license with them but may give a false name. This will not only speed up investigations, but also protect citizens' identities. This was a common sense measure that I voted for and passed the Legislature unanimously. The new law goes into effect July 26 this year.

ENHANCED SENTENCING GUIDELINES

One of the things I learned while working on Eryk's Law was that sentences for all crimes have not been updated since the 1980s. I look forward to working on reviewing and updating sentences for criminal acts to make punishments fit the crimes.



With Eryk and his parents and sister after the governor had signed the bill into law in April.